

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02227 191632Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03 MCT-01 OMB-01
AID-05 ACDA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
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O R 191551Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7687
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2227

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MOPS, LE, UN, IS
SUBJECT: WALDHEIM'S VISIT TO LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 2198

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO U.N. OFFICIALS HERE,
SECRETARY-GENERAL WALDHEIM FOUND MEETING WITH ARAFAT
IN BEIRUT ON APRIL 18 VERY POSITIVE. ARAFAT REPORTEDLY
AGREED TO CONSIDER ALLOWING U.N. OFFICERS TO ENTER
CHATEAU BEAUFORT AND ARNUN, BUT BEIRUT U. N. REPRESENTATIVES
ARE SKEPTICAL THAT PLO WILL ACTUALLY DO SO. LEBANESE
SUGGESTED A MUCH LARGER UNIFIL FORCE IN SOUTH, BUT
WALDHEIM STRESSED THAT LEBANESE SHOULD ASSUME PART OF
BURDEN RATHER THAN ASKING UNIFIL TO DO IMPOSSIBLE. PROSPECTS
FOR SENDING LEBANESE ARMY SOUTH APPEARED REMOTE. END SUMMARY.
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2. IN SEPARATE MEETINGS WITH EMBOFF ON APRIL 19,
ILMAC CHAIRMAN ESPINASSY AND U.N. SPOKESMAN SAMIR SANBAR
(PLEASE PROTECT BOTH SOURCES) MADE FOLLOWING
COMMENTS ON SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VISIT TO LEBANON APRIL
18.

3. SANBAR SAID WALDHEIM'S MEETING WITH ARAFAT, FARUQ QADDUMI, AND BASIL AKL HAD BEEN VERY POSITIVE. ARAFAT HAD REPEATED THAT PLO WOULD DO ITS UTMOST TO COOPERATE WITH UNIFIL IN HELPING SECURE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. ALTHOUGH ARAFAT HAD STILL REFRAINED FROM EXPLICITLY ENDORSING CEASE-FIRE, U.N. OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT FATAH WILL GENUINELY TRY TO BE COOPERATIVE, ALTHOUGH THE ATTITUDE OF REJECTIONISTS IS QUESTIONABLE. WALDHEIM'S MEETING WITH ARAFAT HAD BEEN VERY GOOD FOR LATTER'S EGO AND WAS THUS IMPORTANT STEP IN INDUCING HIM TO BE HELPFUL.

4. ACCORDING TO SANBAR, WALDHEIM HAS ASKED ARAFAT IF THE U.N. COULD ESTABLISH POSITIONS IN CHATEAU BEAUFORT AND ARNUN. LATTER HAD REPLIED HE WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER POSITIVELY BUT THAT HE HAD TO DISCUSS IT WITH HIS MILITARY COMMANDERS BEFORE GIVING AN ANSWER. (ESPINASSY COMMENTED THAT THE PALESTINIANS WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT GIVE UP POSITIONS SUCH AS CHATEAU BEAUFORT AND QASIMIYAH BRIDGE UNLESS THE U.N. WERE WILLING TO FIGHT FOR THEM. SANBAR DOUBTED THAT CHATEAU BEAUFORT WAS ARAFAT'S TO CEDE, SINCE IT WAS APPARENTLY NOT CONTROLLED BY FATAH.)

5. SANBAR SAID LEBANESE IN MEETING WITH WALDHEIM HAD SUGGESTED A MUCH LARGER UNIFIL FORCE IN SOUTH AND
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ASKED IT TO PLAY A MUCH MORE VIGOROUS ROLE IN CONTROLLING ARMED ELEMENTS IN SOUTH LEBANON. (ESPINASSY SAID LEBANESE WANTED UNIFIL TO PATROL GAP BETWEEN ZAHRANI AND NORTH BANK OF LITANI. AMERICAN REPORTER JON RANDALL, QUOTING "UNIMPEACHABLE PLO SOURCE," TOLD US WALDHEIM, AT REQUEST OF LEBANESE FONMIN BOUTROS, RAISED IDEA WITH ARAFAT, DESPITE WALDHEIM'S PUBLIC STATEMENT TO THE CONTRARY. SEE REFTTEL.) WALDHEIM HAD EMPHASIZED TO LEBANESE THAT, WHILE SOME MODEST INCREASE IN UNIFIL WAS POSSIBLE, PERHAPS 2,000 PEOPLE, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WAS TO GET INITIAL 4,000 MEN IN PLACE FIRST. WALDHEIM STRESSED THAT POLITICAL RATHER THAN MILITARY MEANS WOULD HAVE TO BE USED TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN SOUTH AND NOTED THAT IT WAS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL THAT LEBANESE ASSUME PART OF BURDEN BY SENDING ARMY SOUTH RATHER THAN ASKING UNIFIL TO DO IMPOSSIBLE. IF UNIFIL WERE, FOR EXAMPLE, TO TRY TO FILL THE GAP BETWEEN ZAHRANI AND THE LITANI, THIS WOULD REQUIRE NEW MANDATE FROM SECURITY COUNCIL AND WOULD NOT BE WITHIN SCOPE OF PRESENT SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION.

6. ESPINASSY COMMENTED THAT PROSPECTS FOR LEBANESE

ARMY GOING SOUTH WERE BECOMING "REMOTER AND REMOTER"
(SEPTEL).

7. WALDHEIM HAD AGAIN ENQUIRED ABOUT USE OF ZAHRANI
FOR U.N. HEADQUARTERS, BUT SYRIANS HAD NOT YET
EVACUATED BUILDINGS THERE, AND ITS USE FOR UNIFIL
APPEARED UNLIKELY.
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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
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